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A NOTE ON THE *Epistolae Ho-Eliaanae*

James Howell, in his famous *Epistolae Ho-Eliaanae*,¹ states that he had read in "an old *Spanish Legend*" a scurrilous story as to the reason for the expulsion of the Jews from Spain under Ferdinand and Isabella. His editor, Joseph Jacobs, who had devoted especial attention to the history of the Jews in Spain,² remarks:³ "I have never come across this anywhere but in H." Future editors of Howell may perhaps be interested to know that the "old *Spanish Legend*" is reprinted by Yanguas y Miranda, *Diccionario de Antiquedades del Reino de Navarra*, from a text of the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century in the Archives of Pamplona.⁴ The same story, with minor variants in wording, was published by Rodrigo Amador de los Rios from a copy of a ms. in the Biblioteca Colombina in Seville. This copy was executed for his father, José Amador de los Rios.⁵ In this ms. the text forms one of a number of later additions to the *Libro Verde de Aragón* (1507) of Juan de Anchías.

Graetz is a little venturesome in his conjecture⁷ that Yanguas' "Quelle war wohl der Anhang zum grünen Buche." It is true that the ms. used by Yanguas resembled the *Libro Verde* in appending to the expulsion story a well-known fictitious correspondence supposed to have been exchanged in 1492 between the Jews of Spain and those of Constantinople. It contains, moreover, the prologue to this correspondence which Graetz⁸ erroneously supposes to have been printed only in the *Libro Verde*. Nevertheless the differences in the two texts lead one to suspect that Yanguas' source is derived from a text similar to that drawn upon by the compiler of the *Libro Verde* ms., rather than from the *Libro Verde* ms. itself.

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¹ Ed. Jacobs (London, 1892), Vol. I, p. 200.

² In 1888, *e. g.*, he had undertaken a scientific mission in Spain which resulted in the publication of his *Inquiry into the Sources of the History of the Jews in Spain* (New York, 1894).

³ Vol. II, p. 733.

⁴ Vol. II (Pamplona, 1840), p. 117 ff.

⁵ Yanguas cites this text (*ibid.*, p. 120), as "Archivo del reino, sección de negocios eclesiásticos, leg. 1, carp. 21." Jacobs (*Inquiry*, pp. xxxvi; 82-123) saw at Pamplona only documents from the *Archivos de Comptos*.

⁶ *Revista de España*, Vol. CVI (1885), p. 567.

⁷ *Geschichte der Juden*, VIII (Leipzig, 1890), 344, n. 1.

⁸ *Revue des études juives*, XIX, p. 108.